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# CC135 Grasshopper Control

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IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

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## GRASSHOPPER CONTROL

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Grasshoppers can be controlled with insecticide sprays, dusts, or poison baits. Under average conditions, sprays are usually most satisfactory. They give higher initial kill and continue to kill over a longer period of time than do dusts. Baits are preferred in fall-seeded grains and legumes when the plants are small. Sprays are less effective in fall-seeded crops because the treated leaf surface is not large enough to stop grasshopper migrations from field margins.

### SPRAYS

For greater protection to crops, sprays should be used early in the season in field margins and hatching beds, when grasshoppers are small, and before they migrate into cultivated crops. Spraying should be repeated as long as the hatch continues and the insecticide is lost from the vegetation. For early season control--usually from May 1 to June 10--use one of the following:

Insecticide	Amount per acre (To be mixed with water)	No. of days that must elapse before cutting hay or pasturing.
Toxaphene (6 lb. per gallon)	- - - 1 quart	- - - 40
Dieldrin (1.5 lb. per gallon)	- - - 2/3 cup	- - - 30
Aldrin (2 lb. per gallon)	- - - 1 cup	- - - 21
Heptachlor (2 lb. per gallon)	- - - 1 cup	- - - 7

After grasshoppers have reached a half-grown stage, and when daily temperatures are higher and vegetation is heavier, the amounts of insecticides must be increased per acre. After June 10 use one of the following:

Insecticide	Amount per acre (To be mixed with water)	No. of days that must elapse before cutting hay or pasturing.
Toxaphene (6 lb. per gallon)	- - - 1 1/3 quarts	- - - 40
Dieldrin (1.5 lb. per gallon)	- - - 2/3 pint	- - - 30
Aldrin (2 lb. per gallon)	- - - 1 pint	- - - 21
Heptachlor (2 lb. per gallon)	- - - 1 pint	- - - 7

When sprays are applied to pastures or on hay crops the number of days before cutting, as listed above, should be observed to avoid residues that might contaminate milk or meat. On alfalfa, dieldrin or toxaphene can be used just after a cutting, and will have a longer control than will aldrin or heptachlor.

As a general rule, especially when infestations are heavy, one treatment will not control all of the grasshoppers, so repeated spraying may be necessary.

### POISON BAITS

Use one of the following insecticides to prepare 100 pounds of bait:

Aldrin (2 lb. per gallon)	.....1 pint
Heptachlor (2 lb. per gallon)	.....1 pint
Toxaphene (6 lb. per gallon)	.....1 quart
Chlordane (4 lb. per gallon)	.....1 quart
Dieldrin (1.5 lb. per gallon)	.....2/3 pint

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For ground application use a wet bait. Mix the insecticide of your choice with about 10 gallons of water. Use 25 pounds of bran and 3 1/2 bushels of sawdust (or 100 pounds of bran). Mix the insecticide and water with the bran and sawdust to make a moist, crumbly mash. Spread wet bait uniformly at the rate of 20 pounds per acre. Bait may be spread by hand or with a spreader.

#### GRASSHOPPER CONTROL IN HOME GARDENS

To control grasshoppers in gardens it is essential that the margins be sprayed to prevent migrations into the cultivated vegetables. Spray margins and weedy and grassy areas with chlordane 44% - 45% emulsifiable concentrate, using 2 tablespoons per gallon of water. Chlordane emulsifiable concentrate is available at most hardware or drug stores in small packages. Do not use chlordane sprays on plants that will be eaten.

If sprays are necessary on vegetables use either 1 tablespoon of 50% to 57% malathion emulsifiable concentrate to 1 gallon of water, or 4 tablespoons of 50% methoxychlor wettable powder to 1 gallon of water. Wait at least seven days before using vegetables treated with these insecticides; also, wash them thoroughly before using.

Commercially prepared poison baits are available for use in gardens, or they can be made by using smaller proportions of the formula for field use.

#### PRECAUTIONS

All the insecticides recommended for grasshopper control are poisonous to man and animals, but the diluted sprays are not dangerous to handle if ordinary precautions are followed. In the concentrated form they may cause acute poisoning when in contact with the skin or if inhaled or swallowed. Follow the directions on the containers and the suggestions listed below:

1. Bathe and change clothing immediately after spraying.
2. If material is spilled on the skin, wash with soap and water immediately.
3. If clothes are contaminated, wash and change clothing.
4. If insecticide is swallowed, induce vomiting by taking 1 tablespoonful of salt in a glass of water; repeat until vomit fluid is clear. Call a doctor at once.
5. Store insecticides where children, irresponsible adults, and livestock cannot reach them.
6. Do not feed forage or chaff contaminated with insecticides to poultry, dairy animals, or meat animals.
7. When spraying, keep out of the drift.

#### COMMUNITY ACTION

When infestations are heavy, all property owners in a community should cooperate in controlling grasshoppers. Regardless of the materials or methods used, control is most effective when everyone in an infested area cooperates in control activities.

*Bob Roselle*

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Extension Entomologist